

Remarks

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled. New claims 26-41 have been submitted to better define the invention and to advance the prosecution of this application. Entry of the amendment and consideration of the new claims is earnestly requested. Support for the subject matter claimed is provided throughout the specification and in particular in Figs. 1-7. The newly submitted claims are believed to be patently distinguishable over the prior art of record. The claimed invention provides a simple and elegant solution to the problem of permanently setting a post outdoors, especially in climates where normal freeze thaw cycles and other factors will cause a post to shift in the ground over time and become misaligned. While the concept of an adjustable post mount is certainly not new, the present invention, which was designed by a person with more than 30 years of experience in the field of municipal maintenance in the harsh climate of Wisconsin, provides a simple and practical solution to the problem of setting and adjusting posts. In particular, embodiments of the present invention provide angular adjustability in a way that avoids the accumulation of moisture in both the stationary and moveable portions of the post mount which would invariably cause damage and premature failure from freeze/thaw cycles and/or corrosion. The adjustable post mounts of the prior art of record completely fail in this regard. For example, embodiments of the Meyer patent provide a cup-like structure that channels moisture from the post above toward and into a recess 9 for holding the nut 41 into which the axial bolt 43 is secured. This structure most surely would result in premature corrosion of the nut, bolt and mounting structure and not stand up to repeated freeze thaw cycles. Note that Fig. 7 of Meyer even shows recess 9 as positioned below grade. Nor is the problem of freeze thaw cycles and corrosion handled any better by West which provides an upwardly facing funnel-like channel to direct moisture down and around the head of the axial mounting screw 29. Nothing in the prior art of record makes up for the deficiencies of these references.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the newly submitted claims of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative at the number shown below if there are any questions regarding this application or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 10, 2007



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